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**Educational Ideals of Today:** An Anthology of the Moulders of French Educational Thought of the Present, edited by Ferdinand Buisson, member of the Chamber of Deputies, and Frederic E. Farrington, of the Chevy Chase School, Washington, D. C. We have in this volume the plighted faith of thirty-four leading French scholars, whose views should carry great weight in American School circles. One contributor, Alfred Croiset, Professor of Greek at the Sorbonne, claims that the ancients are the contemporaries of modern France, even more than the men of the seventeenth century. He says:

When we study their thoughts, we do not become mere curious dilettanti. We go back to our own origins; we take the river at its source, which is the sole means of knowing it well and of not making a mistake as to its direction. Ignorance of this part of our origin would be ignorance of ourselves. Voluntary neglect of our past, of such a living and ever-present past, would be a real mutilation of our intellect. We might as well close our eyes to everything beyond the horizon of our present generation and declare, for instance, that the French of the twentieth century have no need of knowing what took place in France during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries<sup>1</sup>.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY,  
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

LEWIS R. HARLEY.

<sup>1</sup>Professor Croiset's paper, *The Study of Latin and Greek and the Democracy*, is published separately by The American Classical League. C. K.

### THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF LIBERAL STUDIES

The Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Liberal Studies held its second meeting for 1919-1920 in Houston Hall, University of Pennsylvania, on Friday evening, January 30.

Mr. Alba B. Johnson, of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, presided. He said that those who have had a classical training often undervalue it. Mr. Christopher Morley, of the staff of the Public Ledger, and an author of several recent books, was scheduled to speak on the Sunny Side of Grubb Street. He decided, however, instead to read *A Poet of Sad Vigils*, stating that he would not change the topic, but merely cross to the shady side of the street. Before beginning the enjoyable reading, the author said that humanistic studies were those that make life enjoyable. He made a plea for all Classics, including the English classics, especially Chaucer. He stated, also, that to teachers of Classics, the Classics are vocational studies, and to them sciences are liberal studies. Literary men, also, should study science.

Mr. Fred Irland, Official Stenographer of the United States House of Representatives, spoke on the subject, *Shall we Remain Contentedly Ignorant?* Coming from a perusal of the original Madison manuscripts in Independence Hall, Mr. Irland was freshly impressed by the fact that the framers of our Constitution were men liberally educated in the Classics. A single paragraph of the Constitution of the United States is proof of a thousand years of progress in the business of free government. A decent government can not be conducted by those who have no knowledge of the past.

Professor William I. Hull, of Swarthmore College, spoke on the Higher Education. He said that he had no intention of speaking of the content of higher education. It was agreed that the result is the ability to live

a life among men of affairs, and this idea is gaining ground. From such an education comes a sense of humor and a sense of serenity. This ought to show in political affairs, as well as in other phases of life.

Several of the Principals of the High Schools of the city had been asked to take part in a symposium on the Need of Maintaining the Liberal Elements in Education. Dr. L. Whittaker, of the South Philadelphia High School for Boys, could not be present, but he sent a very encouraging letter, which Mr. Johnson read. In this letter Dr. Whittaker prophesied a "reaction against too great vocationalism". Mr. Parke Schoch, Principal of the West Philadelphia High School for Girls, said that all are agreed about the value of classical training. He made a plea for a thorough education in the ancient Classics, in English Classics, and in those of foreign languages. The classics in science, history, and mathematics should also be represented. Mr. Schoch felt that it is necessary, also, in the modern High School to supply to those who are incapable of enjoying a liberal education the means of making a living. While fitting into these modern needs, however, the Schools should hold firmly to what they have had in the past. Dr. Fred Gowing, Principal of the Philadelphia High School for Girls, spoke strongly in favor of a classical training, as he has done on numerous occasions in Philadelphia. He said that Latin, Greek, and mathematics exactly meet the requirements of a liberal education. These subjects have assumed a compact form from generations of scientific teaching. They represent the scholarly wisdom of all the ancients. Dr. George F. Stradling spoke for the Northeast High School, since Dr. Andrew J. Morrison, the Principal, could not be present. In a witty and strong appeal for a solid training, Dr. Stradling deplored the modern tendency to allow the pupil to choose what he will study in School. If he does not like Latin or mathematics—he may keep rabbits. A case was cited of a friend who had made his fortune and retired, but found himself devoid of any interests. He could do nothing but play cards. The best result of a liberal education is the wide range of interests which it gives.

BESSIE R. BURCHETT, *Secretary*.

### A CATHOLIC CLASSICAL CONFERENCE

On April 6, Tuesday of Easter week, a Classical Conference of Catholic educators and teachers will be held at Hotel Hollenden, Cleveland, Ohio. The purpose of this meeting is the establishment of a permanent Classical League to promote the study of Greek and Latin in Catholic educational circles. Papers will be read on the following subjects: What is being done outside Catholic Circles for the Advancement of Classical Studies?; The Ideal Training of the Teacher of the Classics; Classical Propaganda; The Teaching of First Year Latin and Greek; Classical Authors in High School; Insistence in College Courses on the Literary Spirit.

Although this meeting will be held primarily to deal with problems pertaining to Catholic educational institutions, every one interested in Greek and Latin study will be welcomed at this gathering.

ROY J. DEFERRARI,  
*Secretary for the Committee.*

### THE CLASSICAL CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

The Classical Club of St. Louis completed its organization on January 17, with Professor F. W. Shipley, Washington University, as President, Father Murphy, Professor of Philosophy, St. Louis University, as Vice-President, and Rosalie Kaufman, Cleveland High